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## PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION AWARDS OVER \$1.2 MILLION IN ARRA FUNDING TO WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS

### Eight programs receive funding; partner with educational institutions to provide work skills

BOSTON - Thursday, August 19, 2010 - Building on the Patrick-Murray Administration's continued efforts to equip Massachusetts workers with 21st century economy skills, Governor Deval Patrick today announced a \$1.2 million federal stimulus award to eight workforce training partnership programs across the Commonwealth. Each of the programs awarded today partners with educational institutions to provide practical application for classroom learning, and ensure that participants are able to master the skills they need to compete in today's workforce.

The Governor, joined by Massachusetts Labor and Workforce Secretary Joanne Goldstein and other state and local officials, made the announcement at St. Mary's Women and Children's Center in Dorchester - one of the programs receiving funding today. The Center was awarded over \$135,000 in funding and partners with UMass-Boston, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Corcoran Management Company to provide career training to disadvantaged women in the region.

"I want to congratulate St. Mary's and each of the programs receiving funding today for helping us do the important job of putting people back to work," said Governor Patrick. "In difficult economic times, we are more committed than ever to equipping people with the skills they need to re-enter the workforce, and you are a vital part of that effort."

"As we continue to invest in putting people back to work, we are excited to partner with these organizations that will help train those seeking employment, sharpen their existing skills and develop new skills to compete for positions in a range of growing industries," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray.

"We passed the Recovery Act to stop lay-offs, create jobs and put people back to work. Slowly but surely it's helping us climb out of the deep economic ditch we were in a couple of years ago. This investment means thousands more laid-off workers can get the job training and skills they need to find jobs," said Senator John Kerry.

The St. Mary's Women @ Work Plus program targets low income women who face multiple obstacles to employment including homelessness, difficulty obtaining child care services, lack of workplace experience and mental health issues. The program is strategically designed to break down barriers that keep these women from finding gainful employment. After being assessed for employment readiness, the trainees learn vital workplace skills through a series of educational classes, training programs and relevant seminars. Eventually, these trainees will be placed in transitional administrative and customer service positions in health care, real estate management and higher education.

"It is gratifying to see the funds applied to several different professions for people in need, and in so many parts of the state - the South Coast, Springfield, Boston and more," said Secretary Goldstein.

"These programs address the needs of vulnerable populations, long-term unemployed individuals, and incumbent workers while meeting the immediate needs of employers," said Nancy Snyder, President and CEO of Commonwealth Corporation.

The following programs also received funding under today's announcement:

- Jewish Healthcare Center in Worcester was awarded over \$166,000 to train incumbent and unemployed Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants for 16 long-term care facilities.
- South Shore Community Action Council Inc. in Plymouth was awarded over \$163,000 to provide permit preparation and CDL driver training courses to place individuals in Class B CDL licensed jobs in a cross section of industries.

- Employment Options in Marlborough was awarded over \$161,000 to train individuals with previous psychological disabilities to be Certified Peer Specialists.
- Minuteman Career and Technical High School in Lexington was awarded over \$141,000 to expand the Minuteman Adult Biomanufacturing Certificate Program to a daytime program that will train participants for entry level technician positions.
- Community Workshops Inc./d.b.a. Community Work Services in Boston was awarded over \$162,000 to train and place homeless individuals and those at risk for homelessness in hospitality occupations.
- Boston Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund in Dorchester was awarded over \$166,000 to train long-term unemployed carpenters in need of updated training leading to new Drywall certification to enhance their competitiveness for available jobs.
- Baystate Medical Center in Springfield was awarded over \$167,000 to train and place incumbent workers and unemployed community residents in Patient Care Technician positions using the new employer-developed Acute Care Certified Nurse Assistant curriculum.

"This employment partnership grant will enable women to gain valuable training experience in various fields of employment. It is wonderful that this grant combines education with job training to best prepare women for future job opportunities. I look forward to watching as this grant improves the quality of life for these women and their families," said Senator Thomas M. McGee, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

"I applaud the St. Mary's Women and Children's Center on their dedicated efforts to provide the necessary support and skills that enable women to succeed in the workforce and achieve economic sustainability for themselves and their families. The Women @ Work Plus program exemplifies the hard work that is needed to assist these valuable members of our communities and I congratulate you on this award," said Representative Cheryl A. Coakley-Rivera, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

"I am extremely pleased that the Governor recognized how important St. Mary's Women and Children's Center is for my community. This funding will be used to ensure that women facing barriers to employment have the necessary tools to land good jobs in the real estate management, healthcare and higher education," said Representative Martin J. Walsh.

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